

**NETWORK GROUP PICKUP**ABSTRACT

A system and apparatus for enabling supplementary service  
5 functions, such as group pickup, to be implemented in a communication  
network having one or more local servers. The group pickup system is  
adapted to enable one group member to automatically receive or manually  
pick up another group member's call from anywhere within the network,  
including outside the local server in a multiserver network. The group pickup  
10 system includes an automatic mode unit for enabling the system to pro-  
actively seek a group member to take a call and a manual mode unit for  
enabling the system to search for an alerting group member. The system  
further includes a local connect unit and a remote connect unit to establish  
local or remote connections to a group member, respectively. A remote  
15 search unit enables the system to request a remote search. A  
queue/dequeue unit is provided for selecting a group member from a group  
list. A call establishing unit is provided for establishing a connection between  
the call and the group member and an answer unit is provided to complete  
the connection. A notification unit may be provided to notify the system of the  
20 completed connection. A release links unit may also be provided to release  
any temporary links used in establishing the connection. An exception  
handler may also be provided to deal with any error conditions which may  
occur.